

BHEW Bulletin

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Attitudes toward Marijuana Use in Missouri



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Marijuana is a commonly used illicit drug among adults and youth. Approximately 45% of Missouri adults have used marijuana in their lifetime.¹ For students in grades 6-12, the rate is 14%.²

A survey was administered in Spring 2018 to measure adult attitudes and perceptions of drug use throughout Missouri. Nearly 38% of adults surveyed supported recreational marijuana use, while another 47% supported medical marijuana use only.³

% of Adults	
Using marijuana for medical purposes is OK but it should not be used recreationally	47.3%
Using marijuana is fine for people who wish to do so	37.5%
Using marijuana is never a good thing	15.3%

Over half (56%) of those who supported recreational use felt it was only ok for those 21 and older. Another 22% felt it was acceptable under age 21 only if it did not interfere with daily activity.³

% of Adults	
Using marijuana is only OK for people 21 or over	56.3%
Using marijuana occasionally is OK for people under age 21, as long as it does NOT interfere with their daily activities	21.9%
Using marijuana at least once a week is fine for people under the age of 21 who wish to do so	4.4%
Using marijuana occasionally is fine for people under age 21, even if sometimes it DOES interfere with their daily activities	0.7%
Other	16.7%

Of those who supported medical marijuana use only, 55% felt that those under age 21 should require parental permission, and about one-quarter of respondents felt it was OK regardless of age. Another 13% felt it was only acceptable for those at least 21 years old.³

% of Adults	
Using marijuana for medical purposes is OK but those under 21 should be required to have parental permission	55.3%
Using marijuana for medical purposes is OK, regardless of age	24.6%
Using marijuana for medical purposes is OK, for those who are at least age 21	13.2%
Other	6.9%

¹ National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2015-2016 RDAS.

² Missouri Student Survey, 2018.

³ Missouri Department of Mental Health, Adult Survey 2018, Special Run.

